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- Holy Year

Report \$3-million CIA gift to Catholic Holy Year

TURIN, Italy [AP]—The newspaper Stampa Sera reported Monday that the United States Central Intelligence Agency contributed \$3 million to the Roman Catholic Church's 1950 Holy Year.

A Vatican spokesman called the report "pure invention." He added: "American bishops and the faithful in the United States may have helped their pilgrims in financing their trips, but the Vatican knows nothing about it."

The newspaper, which is owned by the Fiat automobile company, said its report was based on information from U.S. government files. It said these would come to light later in February or March under the Freedom of Information Act.

THE HOLY YEAR is a year-long celebration held every 25 years. Details of the alleged CIA financing for the 1950 observance will be published in the weekly news magazine Panorama later this week, the paper said. Last week's edition of Panorama contended that the Vatican—and Pope Paul VI while he was Pope Pius XII's substitute secretary of state—collaborated with U.S. intelligence services from 1942 until 1950.